

newspapers for the most part abstain from discussion of the case, one exception being the Lokal Anzeiger. In a column editorial the Lokal Anzeiger says that a very grave situation has been caused by the Washington government suddenly insisting that Germany declare the sinking of the Lusitania illegal and apparently suspending the negotiation of a declaration of war. The situation therefore now looking like "head or break," Germany, declares the newspaper, has shown by indisputable facts that she cherishes a sincere wish to live in peace with the United States. There has been no lack of words with a friendly ring from that side, it adds, but all the world now has "only one opinion of what it had been maintained with considerable difficulty, and things might go on as hitherto, in the newspaper's opinion, if President Wilson is determined to persist in keeping up the present situation of ambiguity.

"Intolerable" to Admit Wrong. "But," adds the Lokal Anzeiger, "if he expects that in the Lusitania question Germany will beat a retreat which can counter all her previous declarations, Germany will beat a retreat which can counter all her previous declarations."

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The newspaper says the German government still hopes that a definite understanding is within reach on the basis of the latest instructions to Ambassador von Bernstorff.

Instructions Not Received.

Secretary Lansing said today that no word had reached him of Germany's latest answer to the Lusitania negotiations, as reported in dispatches from Berlin.

In the absence of official information Secretary Lansing refused to discuss any phase whatever the Lusitania negotiations. It appeared at the State Department, however, that if officials regarded the situation as seriously as it is reflected in the dispatches it was not permitted to appear on the surface. Something definite may take form after President Wilson returns to the capital this afternoon.

Declines to Discuss Dispatches.

Count von Bernstorff declined to discuss the Berlin dispatches because he had not received Germany's answer which was supposed to have started from the Berlin foreign office February 1.

In official and diplomatic circles the impression prevailed that the controversy now had come to hinge on whether the United States demands that Germany acknowledge the destruction of the neutrals be acknowledged or whether it demands that the destruction of the neutrals be acknowledged.

Out of many uncertainties, however, one fact stands, and it is that when Count von Bernstorff recently transmitted the last draft of the agreement to Berlin, after having submitted it to Secretary Lansing, the ambassador believed it would be acceptable to his government.

The German embassy gave no indication of how it regarded the agreement, but it was reported that no final opinion could be formed until the official instructions arrived.

President Reads Berlin Advice.

President Wilson read the Berlin dispatches on the situation while his train was running between Baltimore and Washington. He made no comment, but members of his party said they regarded the situation as "unfavorable."

HEARING SET FOR MONDAY.

Motion to Dismiss Federal League Suit Against Organized Base Ball. CHICAGO, Ill., February 4.—Because the Baltimore Federal League club wished to be heard, a motion made today to dismiss the suit of the Federal League against organized base ball was set for hearing Monday.

The motion was offered in the United States district court by attorneys representing the plaintiffs to the suit, which was brought under the Sherman anti-trust law.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Met at noon. Resumed debate on Philippine bill.

Lieut. Gov. Eshleman of California pleaded for the appointment of a committee of public lands.

Senator Thomas submitted a resolution disapproving the destruction of Canadian parliament building as a precedent.

House.

Met at noon. Indian appropriation bill under debate.

Gov. Goethals of the Panama Canal Zone told appropriations committee the date of reopening the waterway still was speculative because of slides.

Rep. Scott, before military committee, and Rear Admiral Blue, before naval committee, testified on national defense problems.

DISTRICT IN CONGRESS.

Met at noon. The Senate District committee failed to obtain a quorum for a meeting today.

Rep. Tinkham of Massachusetts introduced a bill to permit the establishment of a federal civil service for the District of Columbia.

House.

Report on the Johnson juvenile court law revision bill, ordered last Tuesday, was filed in the House today.

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## CANADA'S CAPITOL DESTROYED BY FIRE

### Gas Bomb Explosion Causes Blaze in Historic Parliament Building.

#### FIVE ARE KILLED IN PANIC IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### Minister of Agriculture Burrell Hurt and Chief Liberal Whip Pardee Is Reported Missing.

OTTAWA, Ontario, February 4.—Two women and three men are known to have perished in the fire which swept through the central portion of Canada's magnificent parliament building last night, destroying the chambers of the commons and senate. Several others are reported missing, and it is feared they are buried in the ruins.

All night long firemen, police and soldiers fought to save the \$6,000,000 structure, which is considered one of the finest examples of gothic architecture on this continent. They were successful in saving the beautiful library building and the east and the west wings of the main edifice.

Started in Reading Room.

Immediately after the fire started a report was spread broadcast that it was caused by the explosion of an incendiary bomb. The fire started in the reading room of the house of commons and several persons who were present at the time, including Mayor Medie Martin of Montreal, asserted that it was preceded by an explosion which knocked down several persons. The bomb theory was, however, rejected today by Col. Sherwood, commissioner of dominion police, who insisted that the conflagration was accidental.

The two women who lost their lives were Mrs. Mary, wife of H. A. Bray of Quebec, and Mrs. Morin, wife of Louis Morin of Beauce, Quebec.

The men whose bodies are still buried in the debris are Alphonse Desjardins, a Dominion policeman; Alphonse Desjardins, his uncle, an employee in the building; and Robert Fanning, a waiter.

Among those reported missing is B. B. Law, a member of parliament for Yamoucheville, N. S.

Mr. Law is understood to have been at the house at the time the fire broke out and he has not been seen since. He was alone in the city, and the management of the hotel where he was stopping said he left there last night to trace him since had failed.

J. E. Lapoint, assistant clerk of the commons, is also among those reported missing.

Members of Parliament Missing.

William S. Lorgie, member of parliament for Northumberland, New Brunswick, is reported missing. It was stated last night that Frederick P. Pardee, the chief liberal whip in the house of commons, also was missing, but it was subsequently learned that he went to Sarnia, Ontario, yesterday morning and that he could not have returned before the fire.

The financial loss is difficult to estimate, but the contents of the building were of great value. At an early hour today it was believed that the parliament house had been saved. While the fire was burning soldiers carried out many of its contents.

The parliament building was rated as one of the finest gothic structures in the world. It covered four acres on Parliament Hill.

Minister of Agriculture Hurt.

Several persons who were burned or otherwise hurt in fleeing through the corridors before the swift rush of flames or in escaping from the windows are in hospitals today. One of these most severely injured is Martin Burrell, minister of agriculture, who was burned about the head. Dr. Michael Clark, member for Red Deer, suffered burns about the hands. Sir Robert Borden, the Canadian premier, escaped without injury.

Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Morin were guests of Mrs. Savigny, wife of the speaker, when the fire broke out. Mrs. Savigny dropped her two children into a fireman's safety net and then leaped into it herself. A wave of laughter ran over the Senate, and Senator Swanson explained that he had reference to the Bourne bill.

DECLINES TO COMMENT.

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Investigation Is Ordered.

The origin of the fire can be determined only by an investigation, which it is understood will begin as soon as possible. The fire started in the reading room of the house of commons, and Col. George Bradbury, a member of the house from Manitoba; Mayor Medie Martin of Montreal and Constable Helmer, who was standing at the entrance of the library, agree that it was

preceded by an explosion which blew open the doors of the library, and knocked down persons standing near.

They say they believe the explosion was caused by a bomb or incendiary machine. "Police men were on guard at both doors of the library, and other persons were on guard at the entrance of the commons, so that it would have been difficult for anyone deliberately to set the fire without detection. Suggestions are being made that the blaze started from a smoldering cigar butt, but smoking was prohibited in the library.

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One of these was the minister of agriculture, Martin Burrell, who was overcome by smoke as he fled through a corridor and was dragged to safety by Robert Rogers, the minister of public works. Col. John Currie, who commanded a regiment of Canadian militia in the battle of St. Julien, in Flanders, hastily organized a fire brigade of members of the house and attendants and fought the fire with lines of hose in the corridors, but could make no headway. The blaze spread so fast that when the Ottawa fire department arrived the building was doomed. Aid was summoned from Montreal, but as the Ottawa fire department was leaving that city, about midnight, the call was countermanded.

Crushed by Falling Tower.

The tall central tower of the parliament building fell at 1:30 a.m. today, and about the same time three or four men were crushed beneath the falling roof of one of the wings. By 3 o'clock the flames were rolling through the commons building, but the firemen believed the library would be saved.

The parliament building included a central building, with two wings, in all 470 feet in length, with a tower of 220 feet high, and a library building in the rear. Many valuable sculptures, paintings and decorations adorned its rooms and corridors. The building was built of cream-colored sandstone on a bluff rising 150 feet above the Ottawa river.

The flames from the burning parliament building butting the Ottawa river, miles away at Rideau Hall, the residence of the Duke of Connaught, governor general, but it is believed that the fire did not spread to the house of commons, which was situated on the opposite side of the river.

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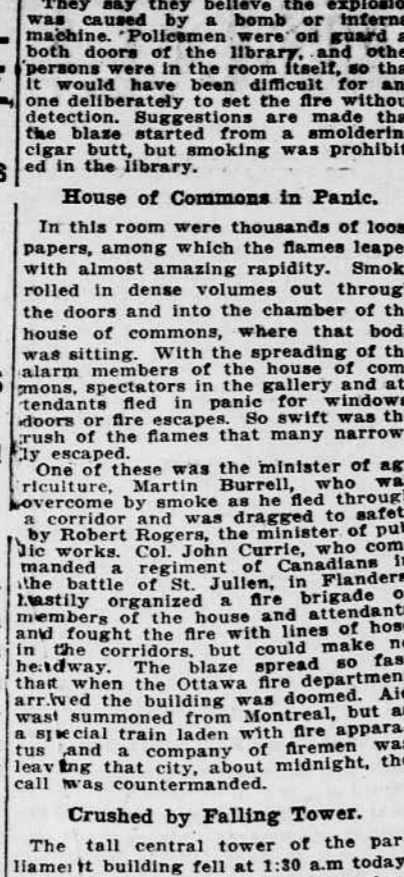
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Not long ago provision was made for adding fifteen men to the police force at the Capitol, but the increase is not considered sufficiently great.

The explosion of an incendiary machine in the wing of the Capitol last summer clearly indicated the need of further guards, therefore, is to protect the building and members of Congress against the possibility of a similar disaster in the future.

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